COLLECTION OF *EUKLASTUS HARTI* METCALF IN WISCONSIN (HOMOPTERA: DERBIDAE)[1]

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ABSTRACT: Twenty-nine adult *Euklastus harti* Metcalf were collected from a rotten elm log in southwestern Wisconsin during summer 1980. Observations on ecology and behavior are provided.

During the summer of 1980, I collected 29 adult *Euklastus harti* Metcalf from a decaying American elm (*Ulmus americana* L.) log in southwestern Wisconsin. The collection data are: Iowa Co., 10.6 km north, 5.5 km west of Dodgeville (SW 1/4 NW 1/4 Sec 25, T 7N, R 2E); 10 Aug. 7♂; 17 Aug., 6♂, 2 ♀; 23 Aug., 3♂, 1♀; 31 Aug., 5♂, 3♀; 7 Sept., 1♀; 21 Sept., 1 ♀. Specimens are housed at the U.S. National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (12 ♂, 7♀), the Snow Entomological Museum, University of Kansas, Lawrence (4 ♂, 1♀); the University of Wisconsin, Madison (3 ♂); and the author's collection (2 ♂).

The ecology of the collecting locale, a dry southern hardwood forest, has been described by Curtis, 1959. The moist, rotted wood in which the specimens were collected contained a variety of fungi and a growth of moss on the remaining bark of the log. Search after 21 September failed to produce more specimens. One female was collected on a fallen box elder (*Acer negundo* L.) about 210 m from the rotten elm log. Since the box elder was neither moist nor rotten, it is assumed that the *Euklastus* did not emerge from it.

Males and females are sluggish and sit or walk with their large spotted wings held nearly vertically, with the flat surfaces facing forward (Fig. 1). Occasionally they were observed with their wings folded roof-like over the abdomen. If disturbed, they jump-fly. They are weak fliers.

Euklastus belongs to the tribe Sikaianini of the Derbidae, a mostly tropical group of fulgorids of about 25 species in 5 or 6 genera, ranging from the Philippines and northern Australia to Fiji to the Seychelles Is. and West Africa to the Caribbean and eastern North America (Fennah, 1952; Metcalf, 1945). *E. harti* has been collected in southern Illinois, North Carolina, and Maryland (Wilson & McPherson, 1980; Kramer, personal communication). Previous collections have totaled only 1 - 6 specimens (Kramer, personal communication).

My series of *E. harti* differs somewhat from the original description and figures in Metcalf 1923. The species was described from a single male

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specimen, which is now in very poor condition, with abdomen, legs, and wings missing (Kramer, personal communication). My relatively uniform series differs from Metcalf's description by having (1) scattered vague brownish spots on a whitish body rather than a general tawny color; (2) 10 - 13 rosy red spots along the costal wing margin rather than a few; and (3) white wing veins rather than yellow, and dark brown wing spots, not tawny (although Metcalf correctly calls them fuscous at the beginning of the description). Also, the wing venation (Fig. 2) differs greatly from Metcalf's

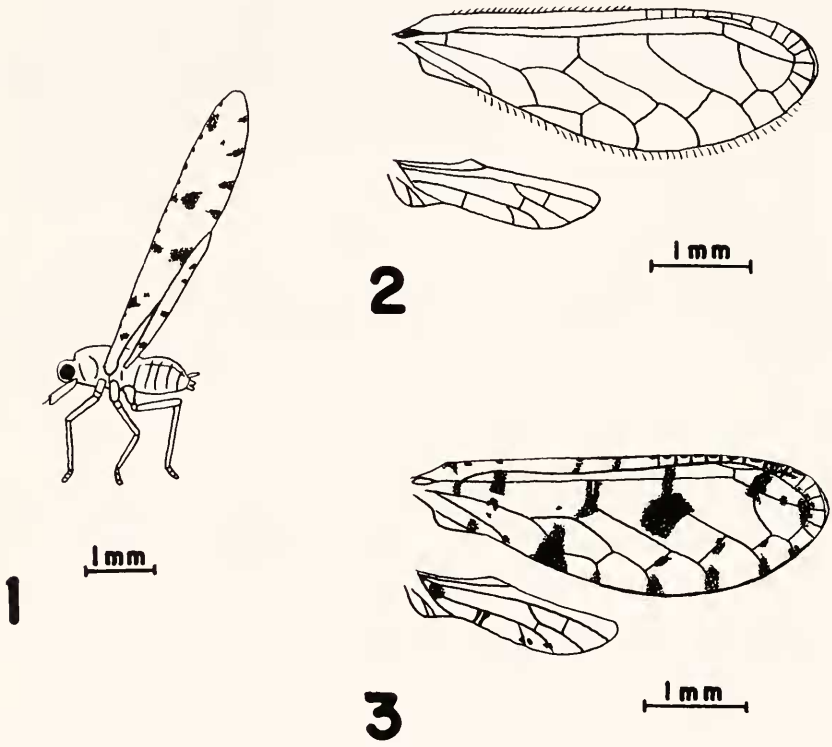

Fig. 1. Male *E. harti,* lateral aspect, showing "wings up" posture.

Fig. 2. Venation of front and hind wings of a female *E. harti.* Note the row of waxy scales along the costal margin and the fringe of wax along the posterior margin, present in fresh specimens only.

Fig. 3. Fully developed spotting pattern of *E. harti.* The dark areas along the costal and posterior margins and along the radius are rosy red; other spots are fuscous.

Fig. 520 (his Fig. 23 agrees closely). Ball (1928) called this discrepancy to Metcalf's attention, with Metcalf (1928) replying that the two figures were drawn from the type specimen, which he no longer had. The wing spotting pattern is variable, with smaller spots sometimes absent; Fig. 3 shows a fully developed pattern. Fennah (1952) characterized *Sikaiana* (which he synonomized with *Euklastus*) as having hind wings 1/3 the length of the front wings. In my series they are nearly 1/2 as long.

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Continued from page 48

The acid test will be whether journal editors require authors to conform to the new authority. If so, there will be massive complaint; if not, massive confusion. Opposition to name changes should be based on something besides nostalgia, but there is no denying they hurt, especially in such large doses. They have been so frequent in the birds that any sane ornithologist has long preferred the common names, which are much more durable. (Even there, the American Ornithological Union changes *them* too to bring them into conformity with new splits and lumps, but rarely are entirely new coinages sprung.) Alexander B. Klots summed it up wryly in the *Field Guide to the Butterflies* when he noted that the male Monarch must smell just as sweet to his lady, whether we call him *Anosia* or *Danaus*. For the record, he's still *Danaus* in this volume.

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